

REMARKS

In accordance with the above amendments the pending claims which have been under appeal have been cancelled and a new slate containing claims 70-84 have been substituted for them. No claim has been allowed.

It is believed that all of the new claims are well supported by the application as originally filed. All the propellant compositions including the reduced energy binder as presently claimed contain either aluminum and ammonium perchlorate or aluminum ammonium perchlorate and sodium nitrate. These oxidizer compounds and the fuel compound are explicitly disclosed in the application as originally filed.

It is noteworthy that the problem underlying the need for the present invention was to provide a propellant composition in which neither HMX nor RDX had to be used as oxidizing components.

This problem was solved by the propellant composition exemplified by new suggested claim 1 in which the binder contains a special polyester polyol prepolymer, PTMA, and in which the plasticizer: polymer ratio is less than 1.6. In addition, the claims require an amount of ammonium perchlorate in the combination. It is believed that the prior art provides no teaching for a person skilled in the art at a binder containing PTMA and having a plasticizer:polymer ratio of less than 1.6 offers the possibility for an oxidizer which is free from MHX and RDX, respectively and which is required to contain ammonium perchlorate.

In view of the above amendments taken together with the
remarks herein reconsideration and early allowance of the
application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

NIKOLAI & MERSEREAU, P.A.

C. G. Mersereau

C. G. Mersereau
Attorney for Applicant
820 International Centre
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, MN 55402
Telephone: (612) 339-7461